

CLAIMS

I claim as my invention:

1. A method of facilitating "whistle-blowing" by one or more anonymous individuals, the method comprising the steps of:

operating an independent service organization to which a person or persons may anonymously report fraud, misconduct, error, and other victimization of and by other persons or entities,

negotiating with the victimized or victimizing person or entity to obtain a reward on behalf of the person or persons making the report, and

collecting a reward from the victimized person or entity either directly for the reporting person or persons anonymously or indirectly by donating it on behalf of the reporting person or persons to a specified nonprofit or governmental entity.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the reward is collected and passed to the specified entity on behalf of the anonymous reporting person or persons, and the reward is acknowledged by the specified entity's publishing notice of the donation by the service organization with a code chosen by one of the organization and the reporting person or persons, thereby giving notice of completion of the whistle blowing process.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein anonymous communication is provided between the service organization and the reporting person or person by way of postings on a publicly accessible bulletin board of the service organization.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the bulletin board is an electronic one that is accessible over a global communications network and the reporting person or person selects his, her, or its own identifying code.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the information is offered to the victimized person or entity and a reward is negotiated by the organization with the victimized person or entity for providing the information.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the organization retains a fee from the reward monies and transfers only the balance to reporter or the specified entity.

7. A method of discouraging fraud and other misconduct in and among public and private bodies by facilitating “whistle-blowing” by persons who know of the misconduct but want to remain anonymous, the method comprising the steps:

operating an organization to which fraud and misconduct can be reported anonymously while retaining contact and communication for developing information and transmitting a reward;

accepting information as to specific instances of fraud and misconduct damaging to a public or private entity;

maintaining anonymity of the reporting person by affording contact and communication through an international global network by which the reporting person cannot be identified, but accepting a coded identifier for the reporting person to be used in postings at a site on the network when communication is needed;

communicating sufficient information from the reporting person to the affected entity to confirm knowledge of the misconduct and its perpetrator and offering more complete information if a reward comprising a part of the damage to be recovered is agreed to; and

passing at least a portion of the reward when received by the organization to one of the reporting person and a third party designated by the reporting person.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein receipt of the reward is acknowledged publicly by the third

party in a public announcement of the payment by the organization together with a code provided by or for the reporter.